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September 18, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

It has come to my attention that the Associated Press has filed a request under the *Freedom of Information Act* (FOIA) and the *Electronic Freedom of Information Act* for information relating to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Associated Press (AP) journalist Michael Biesecker. The tracking number for this request is EPA-HQ-2017-011406.

As I have previously written to you, the EPA's personal attack on Mr. Biesecker and the AP was inappropriate. The Agency's subsequent actions, including the public dissemination of secretly recorded information about Mr. Biesecker's use of email, are even more concerning. The American people have a compelling interest in understanding exactly what has happened, including both potential violations of federal law and invasions of Mr. Biesecker's privacy.

I strongly agree with the AP that the expedited fulfillment of this FOIA request is urgently required to inform the public, and that further delay in fulfilling its request impairs the public's right to know about the actions of their government. Consequently, I urge you to release the information requested by the AP as soon as possible.

I also request that you answer the following questions no later than October 2, 2017:

- Has the Agency begun the process of fulfilling the FOIA request?
- When does the Agency expect to complete that process and release the information requested?

It has also come to my attention that the EPA apparently had a relationship with an entity known as Campaign Monitor Pty Ltd. for services relating to emails, including press releases that were sent to Mr. Biesecker and were presumably used to secretly monitor his email use.

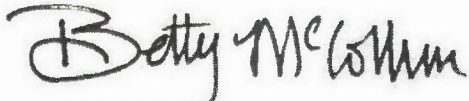
As Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, I would like additional information about the funds appropriated by Congress that may have been directed to this entity. I respectfully request that you answer the following questions about the EPA's relationship with Campaign Monitor no later than October 2, 2017:

- Did the EPA enter into a contract or other agreement with Campaign Monitor Pty Ltd., and if so what were the complete list of duties and activities being conducted under said agreement with the Agency?
- If Campaign Monitor Pty Ltd. was serving as a contractor or consultant, or otherwise performed services for the Agency, what amount of funding was directed to said entity?
- If EPA funds were directed to Campaign Monitor Pty Ltd, what accounts and programs were those funds drawn from, from which fiscal year, and under what authority?
- Which offices at the Agency approved this use of funds?

Congress — and the American people — deserve to know how the EPA is conducting the people's business and how it is using taxpayer dollars. Full transparency is the only way for the EPA to satisfactorily answer these questions.

I look forward to your expeditious response to the questions in this letter.

Sincerely,



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

cc:

Carol Terris
Director, Office of Budget, Environmental Protection Agency

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman, House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Trey Gowdy
Chairman, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Ranking Member, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

